

No. 1 movie in America

Noah: worth the price of admission?

NASHVILLE (BP and local reports) — No one seems to be arguing whether the \$130 million Paramount Studios movie, *Noah*, released in wide distribution last Friday, is a factual representation of Scripture — the filmmaker has admitted it is not — but Christians are disagreeing whether the movie will advance the Lord's Kingdom.

Some Mississippi Baptists who saw the two-hour, eight-

teen-minute film over the weekend, however, aren't nearly as unsure about their feelings.

A collection of Christian academics, pastors, and movie critics laud the production as a tool to encourage dialogue about the Bible, while others caution that viewing the film might generate doubt and inaccuracies in the hearts of believers as well as non-believers who may be seeking a true picture of God.

According to boxoffice-mojo.com, the production co-written and directed by Darren Aronofsky, a graduate of Harvard University and the American Film Institute Conservatory, and starring Russell Crowe in the title role had by Sunday grossed nearly \$44 million in the U.S. and almost \$95 million worldwide in box office receipts. It was the number one film in the U.S. for the weekend.

Aronofsky, a New York City native who says he was raised a nominal Jew but is now an atheist, told *The New Yorker* magazine before *Noah* was released

see NOAH on p. 6

Nominees for MBC boards sought

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) — The 2014 Committee on Nominations approved by the messengers of the 178th Mississippi Baptist Convention will soon begin reviewing the trustee/board member positions on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) to serve in 2015.

According to Allen Simpson, committee chairman and pastor of First Church, Amory, there are a limited number of vacancies to be filled on the following boards and commissions:

- Baptist Children's Village.
- Baptist Health Systems, Inc. (Jackson).
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System, Inc. (Memphis).
- Board of Ministerial Education.
- Education Commission.
- Historical Commission.
- Blue Mountain College.

- Mississippi College.
- William Carey University.
- Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission, Inc.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
- MS Baptist Foundation.

The Committee on Nominations will work with the heads of the institutions and agencies to bring a list of nominees to be approved by the messengers of the 179th annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 28-29, at First Church, Jackson.

For nomination forms, telephone Executive Administration (601) 292-3201 or toll-free (800) 748-1651, ext. 201. Completed forms should be mailed to the Committee on Nominations, Dr. Jim Futral, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530, to be received no later than May 1.

Belser to serve on 2014 SBC annual meeting committee

BALTIMORE (BP) — Clinton pastor Greg Belser has been named by Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Fred Luter to serve as a member of the Committee on Resolutions for the June 10-11 SBC annual meeting in Baltimore.



BELSER

Luter, senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Church in New Orleans, appointed Belser, senior pastor of Morrison Heights Church in Clinton, and the remainder of the committee in keeping with the provision in SBC Bylaw 20 that committee members be named 75 days prior to the start of the annual meeting.

Luter tapped David Dykes, pastor of Green Acres Church in Tyler, Texas, as chairman. The other committee members, in alphabetical order, are:

■ Whitney Alexander, homemaker and member of First Church, Gadsden, Ala.

■ Matthew Arbo, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., and member of Redeemer Fellowship in Kansas City.

■ Roger Freeman, pastor of Grace Church, Nashville.

■ Matthew Hall, vice president of academic services at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and member of Clifton Church in Louisville.

■ Chris Osborne, senior pastor at Central Church, College Station, Texas.

■ Ramon Osorio, national church mobilizer at the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, Ga., and member of First Redeemer Church in Cumming, Ga.

■ Jay F. Shell, attorney and member of West Church in Batesville, Ar.

■ Kevin Smith, assistant professor of Christian preaching, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville.

The committee's composition, according to Bylaw 20, must include at least two members who served the previous year, with Dykes and Arbo meeting this requirement. Bylaw 20 also stipulates that the committee include at least three SBC Executive Committee members. This year they are

Dykes, Shell, and Osborne.

The procedure for submitting resolutions is as follows, according to Bylaw 20:

■ Proposed resolutions may be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting, giving the Resolutions Committee a two-week period in which to consider submissions. The committee also may propose resolutions for consideration during its deliberations. Resolutions may not be submitted during the annual meeting.

■ Proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a

see COMMITTEE on p. 6

Inside this

Directions.....

Sunday School lessons.....

Editorial.....

Bibliography.....

How to Become a Christian.....

Revivals & Homecomings.....

Just for the Record.....

Classifieds.....

3-DIGIT 572
#0000 2910 4031#
005 DTM
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE, TN 37203-2060

Historical Library & Archive
Nashville, TN



From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Getting Job One Done

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...

— Bill of Rights, First Amendment

Freedom of religion is one of the cornerstones of our way of life in the United States, as we all learned in high school civics class. It was so fundamental to the Founding Fathers' vision of this new country that it is the very first item codified in the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution.

Christians have been well-served over the years by the amendment. So has virtually every other religion known to mankind, a fact that is often overlooked. While everyone has been free to worship (or not) as they please, evangelical Christians have utilized the umbrella protections of the First Amendment to seek to bring non-believers to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as "the one true and living Son of the one true and living God."

Just as Christians are free to worship God, non-Christians are free to turn down the opportunity to do so. It has always been our mission as Christians to win them over. Likewise, it has always been our obligation to convince those who believe in false religions to see the error of their ways and convert to Christianity.

Unlike the dark eras of humankind's religious history, however, no one in America is forced to accept another's faith. It's always been up to Christians to get the job done themselves (Matthew 28:18-20).

It's time to redouble our efforts. It may be difficult for those of us who live in the buckle of the Bible Belt to realize just how pagan our country has become, but it's true. News dispatches of recent years should give us a clue.

The U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Co., has officially approved a pagan prayer circle on the grounds of the government-owned facility. The Wicca religion, essentially the practice of ancient witchcraft sanitized and legitimized by modern followers, is expected to be the main user of the new "chapel."

Wiccans worship both the female Triple Goddess and the male

Horned God. The pentacle, which contains a five-pointed star associated with black magic and devil worship, is their symbol.

"They've had a worship circle on base for some time and we're looking to get them an official one," said academy spokesman John Van Winkle at the time.

Wiccans thus join a number of other religions officially recognized by the academy, including Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam. One assumes similar situations at the other American military service academies.

Fort Hood in Texas, the largest U.S. Army base in the world, has had such a pagan "chapel" for years.

This follows news of the approval some time ago by the U.S. Veterans Administration of the pentacle for inclusion on the official list of religious symbols that can be placed on government-supplied headstones for deceased military personnel. Selena Fox, a Wiccan high priestess for the Circle Sanctuary in Barneveld, Wi., celebrated the conclusion of the lawsuit against the VA, in which she was a plaintiff, that brought about the approval of the pentacle for headstones.

"I'm glad this ended in success in time to get markers for Memorial Day," she said.

The pentacle joins 38 other religious symbols approved for military grave markers, including Sufism Reoriented, Eckiankar, and Seicho-No-Ie. The U.S. Air Force also recognizes Shamanism and Druidism.

Few days go by without reports of similar circumstances occurring in academic, business, and civic institutions in this country.

It's a fact that our Bill of Rights guarantees people the right to worship as they please. It's a tragedy that so many of them have chosen the wrong path and are headed for eternal damnation without the Savior. Thank God we have the freedom to openly testify to them of the life-changing power of that Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our mission is clear, and time is short. We have to help bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus before it's too late. As paganism encroaches ever closer, we have our work cut out for us.

A New Sabbath?

I love college athletics. I am a NCAA Division 1 letterman who participated in March Madness twice while in college. As I write this blog, I am sitting at my breakfast table with one eye on the live broadcast of the NCAA men's basketball tournament. This is a big deal in my house. Every member of my family, from the youngest of kids on up, completes a bracket. We watch every game that we can as a family and it is competitive.

I love sports, period. I coach my kids' sports teams. I go to college football games. I spend money on team colors. I am a fan. I say all this to give some context to what I am about to say.

Something is wrong. Our society is very broken. As college athletics (and sports in general) continue to rise in importance in our society and culture, there is a dangerous blurring of lines that has occurred. We are confusing religion and entertainment.

No greater example could be given than what has just happened in my home state of Mississippi. The Gulfport City Council, which is concerned about the lack of the local cable provider to bring the new SEC Network into its service area, has unanimously passed a resolution in which they "urge and encourage" this new network's inclusion in the cable service.

This action in and of itself is not a problem, albeit an interesting move by a government body. What makes this resolution alarming is the language contained within: "...keep in mind that when it comes to football, it is often said that, in the south, football is a religion, and Saturday is the holy day."

Wow. That statement stung in my heart. Have we elevated sports to such a high place in our society and lives that the line is now actually being blurred between religion and entertainment?

I guess it should come as no surprise. We are blurring the line between entertainment and everything. Entertainment has become the ultimate objective in everything in our society. This is the problem.

When I first read the story about the Gulfport City Council resolution on the SEC Network, my mind immediately



Guest opinion
with Chas Rowland

went to Exodus 20:8. I thought the resolution used blasphemous language in light of the fourth commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." Then I realized that the blasphemy is not as much in the re-utilization of Saturday as a New Sabbath reserved for sport. The blasphemy in the resolution is a fundamental violation of the first commandment in Exodus 20:3: "Do not have other gods besides Me."

The more I think about it, our society's god is not sports. Our god is entertainment — whether you are talking about how you spend your Saturday, what is on the news, how your teachers are educating your kids, how you are picking your career, or what your church is like.

This is not a New Sabbath or a new god. It has been going on for a long time. In Judges 16:25, the Philistines requested, "Bring Samson here to entertain us." So they brought Samson from prison, and he entertained them. They had him stand between the pillars.

The Philistines called for the servant of God to stand before them, not to worship God but to mock Him. More and more churches are trying to compete with the world and are attempting to draw people in by giving them the god which they are seeking: entertainment. When we do this, we are bringing in the Philistines to enjoy their entertainment as they mock the living God and remain in their sins. God brought the building down on Samson and the Philistines that day.

May we not stand before the people and entertain. May we stand before the

see ROWLAND on p. 7

THE Baptist Record

Editor
William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

Associate Editor
Tony Martin
martin@mbcb.org

Layout/Design
Megan Young
myoung@mbcb.org

Advertising
Emily Jones
ejones@mbcb.org

Circulation Manager
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

Editor Emeritus
Don McGregor

Baptist Record
Advisory Committee:
Dwayne Parker, Flora
Paul Sims, Pontotoc
Barry Burris, Terry
Carl White, Meridian
Billie Buckley, Petal
Russell Mord, Sturgis

Postmaster:
Send changes of
address to: The Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Send news,
communication,
and address changes
to: The Editor, Baptist
Record, P.O. Box 530,
Jackson, MS
39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org



VOLUME 138 • NUMBER 14 • ISSN 0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

Baptist leaders find unity amid growing conflict in Ukraine

HAUNETAL, Germany (BP) — As Russian tanks rolled through the Ukrainian territory of Crimea and thousands of people staged demonstrations both for and against the two governments, there was one group united by something other than nationalism or a common language.

More than 80 Russian-speaking Baptist church planters, pastors, and Russian ministry workers from across Europe gathered in Germany this month for their annual summit of the Network of Russian Speaking Churches of the European Baptist Federation.

Little did they know when the conference was planned that their theme of unity and peace would be particularly timely. "We prayed for Ukraine numerous times together," International Mission Board representative and Mississippi native Russell Kyzar, who attends a Russian-speaking immigrant church in Prague, Czech Republic, said.

"You genuinely sensed that regardless of where they were from, people were pained by the situation. The truth is, we all have a much higher allegiance — and that is to the Kingdom of God. And we must use this opportunity, as people's hearts are open, to come to Him," Kyzar said.

Millions of Russian-speaking immigrants and refugees are spread across Europe. This presents church-planting opportunities for immigrant church pastors who gather together annually during the summit.

Usually this conference is a time for these leaders and workers to share about their ministries and church-planting strategies, but this year's conference theme, "A Spirit of Unity in the Bond of Peace," was particularly appropriate

as the group spent much of their meeting praying for the current situation in Ukraine and Crimea.

The meeting was both unique and heartwarming, Kyzar said, as Baptist leaders from the different countries lifted each other up in prayer. "There were leaders from Russia praying for representatives from Crimea, and there were Ukrainian leaders praying for the leaders and people of Russia."

"There was a sense of Christian brotherhood that was overriding any tension caused by nationalism or patriotism."

Those who attended the conference said the meetings were uplifting, and there was a sense that even though different nations were represented, they were there to demonstrate something bigger than a collection of people from different Russian-speaking countries.

"Right now the hearts of people are tender," Kyzar said, "and we were talking about how to maximize this as an opportunity to talk with people about spiritual things. The structures of men do not provide the security that you need... and definitely not for eternity."

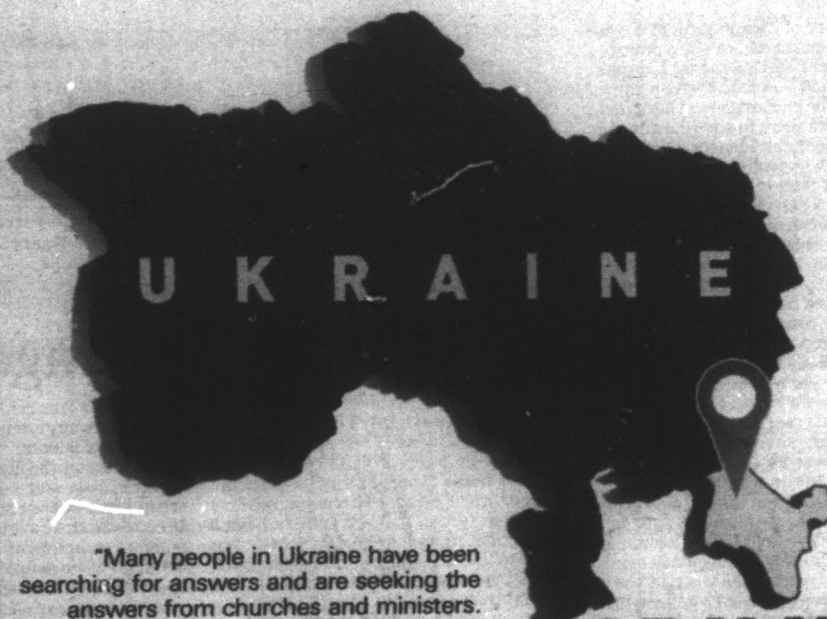
Igor Gricyk, pastor of a Russian-speaking church in Kladno, Czech Republic, and one of the organizers of the conference, said the recent unrest in Crimea and Ukraine will most likely cause many new immigrants and refugees to flee from post-Soviet countries into the rest of Europe.

Churches across Europe are willing to cooperate and support ministry among Russian-speakers in Europe, he said. "Meeting together and praying for one another gives us courage to be ready to accept those people and help them find God, church, home, and family."

"You genuinely sensed that regardless of where they were from, people were pained by the situation. The truth is, we all have a much higher allegiance — and that is to the Kingdom of God. And we must use this opportunity, as people's hearts are open, to come to Him."

Russell Kyzar

International Mission Board representative and Mississippi native



"Many people in Ukraine have been searching for answers and are seeking the answers from churches and ministers. We praise God that He is opening hearts to reveal Himself."

Kostya Bakonov

Crimean Baptist pastor

Russian moves in Ukraine prompt uncertainty among Baptist workers

KIEV, Ukraine (BP and local reports) — Baptist workers in Russia and Ukraine remain uncertain what effect the recent Crimean referendum to secede from Ukraine and join Russia will have on churches in the region.

Although there is freedom of religion in Russia, national identity is tied to the Orthodox Church. Protestant denominations, which are classified as cults, are treated with mistrust. Laws related to religious activity are more tightly controlled in Russia than in Ukraine, where evangelical Christianity has surged since the early '90s.

Baptist church leaders are not sure what standing they will have with the new government," said Tim Johnson (name changed), an International Mission Board (IMB) representative in Kiev, which is the capital of Ukraine. "The freedoms of religion and the protection of the Ukrainian constitution are now lost, and what standing they will have in the transition is uncertain."

The March 16 referendum in Crimea has left the region torn between two nations. Russia has claimed the region and instituted a strong military presence. Ukraine and its allies do not acknowledge the legitimacy of the vote.

Residents of Crimea are living with the reality of having their citizenship, pensions, cur-

rency, and property documents in limbo. "There is an overwhelming sense of the unknown," Johnson said.

John Green (name changed) an IMB representative in Russia, said Russians generally feel that Crimea belongs to Russia. Crimea was given to Ukraine as a gift when both were a part of the former Soviet Union. When Ukraine claimed independence in 1991, Russia lost Crimea — the site of several large military facilities and home port for Russia's Black Sea naval fleet.

Some observers are concerned that Russia will eventually take the rest of Ukraine to provide a land link from Russian territory to Crimea.

"What is creating unease is how Russia is perceived by the rest of the world," Green said. "Russians want the rest of the world to see them as strong and courageous, and Baptist Russians want to see their countrymen trusting in God and not just their country."

A third factor is the native people of the land, the Tatars, who make up less than 15% of Crimea's roughly two million people. Tatars, which are Sunni Muslims of Turkic origin, began returning to Crimea about two decades ago.

They are deeply suspicious of Russian rule following the mass deportation of their ancestors to Central Asia by Soviet authorities in 1944, and they

strongly protested the March 16 referendum.

Many Tatars are seeking refuge in western Ukraine. Central Church of Vinnytsia, Ukraine, has provided help to Tatars who have arrived in their city.

"If this (migration) increases there will need to be an organized response to help these people who are once again faced with losing their homes," Johnson said.

Throughout the past four months since EuroMaidan protests first began in Kiev, Ukrainian Christians have consistently responded to the political unrest with prayer and evangelism.

Crimean Baptist pastor Kostya Bakonov, who leads a church in Simferopol, said many people are spiritually open because of the ongoing hostilities.

"Many people in Ukraine have been searching for answers and are seeking the answers from churches and ministers," Bakonov said. "We praise God that He is opening hearts to reveal Himself."

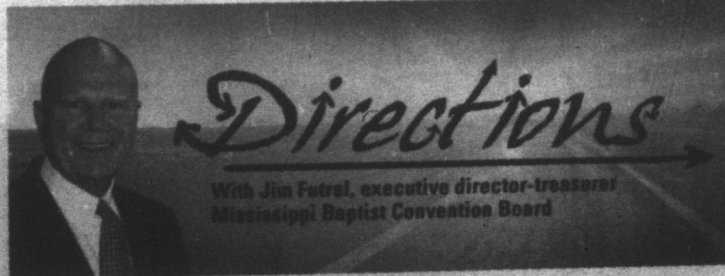
Johnson confirmed the sentiment. "It's amazing how much easier it is to talk to people now."

Bakonov asked for continued prayer for the people of Crimea as they navigate this time of transition. "I fervently believe the crisis in Ukraine is not only about the political stability in the country and region but also for the souls of men."

Just a word of encouragement is a difference maker and can be a powerful thing in someone's life. It seems as though some people just have a gift from God to be encouragers. I have met a few folks that seem to have the gift of encouragement, but I have known a lot more people who really are used of God to say a word or carry out an act that literally reshapes a person's life. A God-given, positive word can make somebody's day and well may shape their future.

One Sunday I was speaking at a church as just a fill-in preacher. After the service, I was so blessed by one little girl. She was a bright-eyed, precious, smiling five year old. She walked up to me, looked me in the eye, shook my hand and with the maturity of a 35 year old she said, "I like you singing." Now for those of you who have never heard me sing, you do not have any appreciation for what this girl had heard. I was just singing with the congregation, and it was not a solo or anything in my sermon. She heard it and wanted to express encouragement to me about my singing. I asked her if she would tell me her name and she said, "Ansley." I hugged her and said, "Ansley, I want to tell you that you are the first person who has ever told me that they liked my singing."

I could not believe it. I thought this must be the most brilliant, sensitive, musically attuned child that had ever lived. She smiled and after we had talked a little more she went on her way, and I left the service that morning feeling good. I felt good not because of the sermon that I had preached but about blessing somebody with my musical talents. It was a ray of sunshine in my day. Later in the day as I was thinking about Ansley and her comment, I realized that when I told her that she was the only person who had ever told me that they liked my singing, that was not true.



A Word of Encouragement

I remembered a lady I had met at a nursing home where I was speaking one Sunday afternoon. When I went to the nursing home I thought that I was going to just bring a Sunday afternoon message to the group that was gathered, but it turned into more than that as nobody was there to lead the singing. So I stepped in to lead the singing and then to speak. We shared some moments together singing the great old hymns that they knew.

After the service was over, some of the precious people in that nursing home came by to speak to me. Some of them were on walkers, some in wheelchairs and there were others who were able to maneuver on their own. One lady came by and grabbed my hand with both of her hands and she said, "That was the prettiest singing I have heard in all of my life." I responded, "Bless your heart. Thank you so much." She shuffled on down the hall going to her room. The lady behind her was waiting for her to get out of earshot, and she walked up to me and said,

"Do not pay any attention to her. She is crazier than a loon!" Well, I had already thought that if she liked my singing that she must have some deficiencies, but the second lady did not have to talk bad about her and did not have to ruin the other person's compliment. However, I do understand when people do not have a deep appreciation for my singing.

And then there was Ansley, a precious, innocent, sweet and bright five year old, who wanted me to know that she liked my singing. I thought that the number was growing because now I was up to two that liked my singing. While I know that is not a stampede, it is two more than most folks would imagine, and I was thankful.

Now I am somewhat of a realist, and I know that there are a few things that I can do. There are other things that I try to do, and there are a number of things that I cannot do. So except for this multitude of two people, I am pretty much out of the singing business.

Here is the glorious thing. Virtually

everybody can be an encourager. If they will, they can find some word and some way to touch somebody's life, lift them up and bless them. No doubt you remember that disciple by the name of Joseph who came to the young, struggling church and gave a magnificent gift. From that time on until this day, everybody calls him by his new found descriptive name of Barnabas which meant and means the son of encouragement. While I seriously doubt that Barnabas would come to me after a service of any kind and say, "Jim, I sure do like your singing." I do believe that Barnabas would come and say, "Jim, I do appreciate you serving the Lord and sharing His word."

Find at least one person this week that has blessed you, and they may not even know it. Thank them and encourage them in the work that they are doing. I assure you that it will make a difference to them. In fact, it will make a difference in you. God bless you!

P.S.-If you do not like my singing, there are two things that I need to mention to you. The first is to just remember that you are in the majority. The second thing is because there are a large number of you who agree with that position, I do not need you calling, writing, texting or personally coming to tell me how you feel. Those needs to administer discouragement and those instructions to tell me to stop singing have all been fulfilled many times over. While I appreciate you, you are not needed in that regard any more. So if you feel led and even pushed of God to tell somebody that they cannot sing, feel free to share that with someone else. God bless you!

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

College News



The Student Government Association at **WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY** inducted officers for the 2014 - 2015 academic year Feb. 10. (Front row, left to right) Andrew Coleman of Pascagoula, secretary; McKayla Strebeck of Seminary, justice; Mary Hannah Lott of Hattiesburg, treasurer; Lydia Ulrich of Moss Point, president; Caitlin Cooksey of Collinsville, chief of staff/senior representative; Kirestian White of Collins, justice; Austin Farmer of Hattiesburg, vice-president; (back row, left to right) John Taylor Wesley of Columbia, justice; Wyatt Lindsey of Verona, commissioner of student affairs; Telea Wade-Lahart of Raleigh, N.C., senior representative; Victoriana Lopez of Carriere, public relations commissioner; Joshree Shrestha of Kathmandu, Nepal, commissioner of elections; Chamapuwa Tinago of Harare, Zimbabwe, international representative; Johnny Walters of Braxton, justice, and Sean Laird of Gulfport, entertainment commissioner. Not pictured: Miles Deaton of Hattiesburg, chief justice, and Ryan Lott of Pearl, justice.

MEDICARE Supplement

SAVE Up to
40%

O'Mire Financial
Services
1.800.844.3254

CD or IRA
Maturing?

7%
First Year
GUARANTEED*

L.D.
O'Mire

1.800.844.3254



THE LAW OFFICES OF WILLIAM B. HOWELL, LTD.

ATTORNEYS PROVIDING
PEACE OF MIND ESTATE PLANNING
MAKE THINGS SIMPLE FOR YOUR FAMILY
MINIMIZE COSTS AND EXPENSES
ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY DELAYS

TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS TRUE PEACE OF MIND
CALL TODAY!



SERVING ALL OF MISSISSIPPI WITH OFFICES IN
RIDGELAND, DIAMONDHEAD, AND HERNANDO

1-800-839-7857

www.howellelderlaw.com



BROOKS MINISTRY INSURANCE

Mike Brooks
Agency Principal



Call today for a free quote **888.908.3662**
or email: mike@brooksministryinsurance.com

Property • Auto • Liability • Workers' Compensation

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 3, 2014

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST STUDENT CONNECT CAMPS

A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE

Mississippi Baptist Student Connect Camps have the same quality and energy as other camps, but at a much more affordable cost. Featuring large group worship experiences, small group Bible studies, and fun activities, Connect Camps are designed to introduce students to Jesus Christ and help develop followers into mature disciples.

For Students Who Have Completed 6th grade through 12th grade.

SESSION 1: June 2 - 5 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 2: June 5 - 8 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

SESSION 3: June 9 - 12 Blue Mountain College

CAMP COST: \$175 per person/Deposit of \$50 per person required

PLEASE NOTE: NO REFUNDS OR TRANSFERS OF DEPOSITS AFTER MAY 1.

REGISTRATION OPENS FEBRUARY 1 AND ENDS WHEN CAMP REACHES CAPACITY.

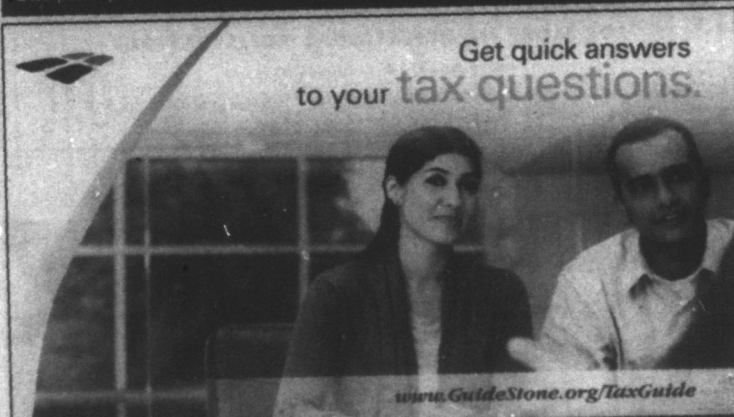
For Registration Information, contact:

Jo Wasson, 800-748-1651, ext. 216, or jwasson@mbcb.org

For Camp Program information contact:

Ken Hall, 800-748-1651, ext. 285, or khall@mbcb.org

Discipleship & Family Ministry Department, MBCB



Get quick answers
to your **TAX** questions.

www.GuideStone.org/TaxGuide

Ministerial tax issues can be complicated
That's why GuideStone has consolidated all of our most
popular tax resources in one convenient location.

- The Ministers Tax Guide
 - Ministerial Tax Issues Booklet
 - Compensation Planning Guide
 - Housing Allowance Questions & Answers
 - Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches
- Find them all at: www.GuideStone.org/TaxGuide
For more information contact Robin Nichols, GuideStone Rep.,
MBCB, at 601-292-3226.

LIVE WEBCAST ADULT BIBLE STUDY *Leadership Training*

APRIL 15, 2014 • 6:30-8:00 P.M.



Is your Adult Bible Study Healthy?

We'll be addressing questions from Bible Study Leaders across the state and you can submit your own questions by text via a live chat during the webcast. Join with us at no cost from your church, home or wherever you are by internet on your computer/laptop, phone, tablet, iPod.

Topics

Healthy Preparation • Healthy Teaching
Healthy Application

Bonus Vignettes

Reaching Adults in Mississippi • Telling Jesus
Stories • Being a Part of Kingdom Work!
Sunday School Preparation Rally

Hosted and Lead By

Mississippi Sunday School Leaders
and David Apple, Adult Ministry Specialist,
LifeWay Christian Resources

Connect with us on April 15 at 6:30 by going to:
www.mbc.org/ssleadertraining

LIFE COMMITMENT SUNDAY

This April, take time to observe Life Commitment Sunday, a day to focus attention on the calling to vocational ministry.

This can be observed any Sunday in the month of April at your local church.

For more information please contact the Pastor/Leadership Development Dept. at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 305.

MISSISSIPPI BSU ADOPT A SUMMER MISSIONARY

This year, Mississippi BSU will send over 150 students around the world as summer missionaries. To adopt one of these students, please follow this link to fill out the "Adopt A Summer Missionary" form.

www.mbcbs.org/adopt

For more information contact:
Peggy Powell at 601-292-3299
or ppowell@mbcb.org



May 2-3, 2014
Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko, Miss.
4 pm Friday - 3 pm Saturday
Deadline: April 30, 2014

For more information contact the Men's Ministry Dept. at the MBCB at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 335, or 601-292-3335.

PREACHING 2014 CONFERENCE

BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

May 19

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY

May 20

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE

May 21

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Daniel Caldwell, Ronald Meeks, Wayne VanHorn, C. Alan Woodward

FOR REGISTRATION & INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE
PASTOR/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DEPT. OF THE MBCB:
601-292-3305 or cwtaylor@mbcb.org

GROWING CHURCHES

MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS CHURCH
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

JULY 25-26, 2014

CROSSGATES BAPTIST CHURCH
BRANDON, MS

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

www.gc2014.iconosites.com

or Contact the Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. at the
MBCB at 601-292-3284.

2014 MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST HANDBELL FESTIVALS

April 25-26
First BC, Columbus

May 2-3
Cartersville BC, Petal



Barry Burris

Worship Pastor

Wynndale BC, Terry, MS

MBCB Handbell Event Coordinator



DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
FOR COLUMBUS APRIL 11, FOR PETAL APRIL 18

For more information contact the Church Music Dept. of the MBCB at
1-800-748-1651, ext. 267, or 601-292-3267.

CP SUNDAY

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM SUNDAY

APRIL 13, 2014

To Promote CP in your church, order your resources today!
2014 tracts, bulletin inserts, videos, bulletin covers, posters, or
spreadsheets

Visit our Web site for more details:

www.mbc.org/cp

Or contact the Stewardship/CP Promotion
Department, MBCB, at 601-292-3347, or
lucavell@mbcb.org



Senior 20 DAY 14 Retreat

AGING Faithfully
PSALM 100:5

TUESDAY, MAY 20 | FIRST BC, BROOKHAVEN

THURSDAY, MAY 22 | FIRST BC, LOUISVILLE

TUESDAY, MAY 27 | FIRST BC, LOUISVILLE

12:30 P.M. REGISTRATION/ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP

1:00 THE GATHERING

2:00 AFTERNOON WATCH

2:30 BREAK-OUTS 1

1. DISCOVERING THE JOY IN AGING
2. AGING FAITHFULLY
3. SEE SOMETHING NEW IN YOUR RETIREMENT
4. HIS STORY IN HYMNS
5. BIBLE STUDY: IN THE NAME OF JESUS, RISE UP

3:15 BREAK-OUTS 2 (REPEAT)

4:00 BREAK

4:30 CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

5:30 ADJOURN

COST: \$5 AT THE DOOR OR PREREGISTER ONE
WEEK BEFORE TO RECEIVE A GIFT BAG.

TO REGISTER:

1. CALL 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 216, OR
2. MAIL REGISTRATION TO: MBCB CONFERENCE OFFICE
PO BOX 530
JACKSON MS 39205

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE
DISCIPLESHIP/FAMILY MINISTRY DEPT. AT THE MBCB
AT 1-800-748-1651, EXT. 284, OR 601-292-3284.

2014 CAMP GARAYWA

COME JOIN THE FUN AT CAMP GARAYWA!

Missions Camp for Girls & Missions Camp for Students -
\$175 per camper

Day Camp for boys & girls
\$20 per camper per day

Missions Camp for Girls
Girls who have completed the 3rd-6th grades
• June 9-13 • June 30-July 4
• June 16-20 • July 7-11
• June 23-27 • July 14-18

Missions Camp for Students
Girls who have completed the 7th-12th grades
June 23-27
July 7-11

Day Camp
Boys & girls who have completed the 1st-6th grades
July 21, 22, 23

For more info, please call Karen, 601-924-7034
Registration available online

www.garaywa.org

Pray this day for...

April 4 - 17, 2014

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

Pray for: **Alvin & Mary Doyle**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through member care.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert & Margaret Fortenberry**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Gloria Glaze**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through media consultation & media promotion.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank Harrison & Phoebe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hathcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Thomas & Kerri Dewett**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramona Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Raymond & Cynthia Hodgins**, missionaries ministering to Deaf Peoples through sports evangelism, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Jeffrey & Liesa Holeman**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Janey Holloway**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Ronald & Beverly Holmes**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

LIFEWAY'S
Agency D3
DISCOVER DECIDE DEFEND | PETER 3:15
VBS Leadership Trainings

Dates & Locations:

April 29 - Crossgates BC, Brandon

May 1 - Calvary BC, Batesville

May 5 - Easthaven BC, Brookhaven

May 6 - Carterville BC, Petal

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Just the Facts: Don't Miss Out on the Fun!

Preregister today & get a free VBS Inflatable!

For more information contact the Sunday School Department:

Angie Boydston at aboydstun@mbcb.org or

Jo Wasson at jwasson@mbcb.org

or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292.

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board • PO Box 530 •

Jackson MS 39205

Miss Maggie Wingo
6/3/04
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
South America

Mr. Noah
6/3/09
Parents: D & L
Restricted

Miss Sophia
6/14/03
Parents: D & K
European Peoples

Mr. Ethan Epps
6/15/05
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
South American Peoples

Mr. Sam K
6/15/13
Parents: C & A
Restricted

Mr. Seth Davidson
6/17/95
Parents: P & D
European Peoples

Mr. Jack
6/19/03
Parents: J & S
Restricted

Miss Melody Williams
6/24/95
Parents: Matt & Shea
Restricted

Miss Hannah Robertson
6/30/97
Parents: Steve & Ruth
Southeast Asian Peoples



Encourage an MK with a card!
FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.
PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.
Please be sure your cards arrive in WMU prior to the first date on this birthday list.



HOUSE TOPS

Revivals & Homecomings

► **Lantrip Church, Luce:** Revival, Apr. 6 - 9; Sun., 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. (Lantrip youth) and 7 p.m. (James Taylor); Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; other speakers include Chris Duncan, J.R. Eaton, and Craig McComick; Bobby Sexton, music; Deanna Wooten, pianist; Robert Earl Alexander, pastor.

► **Friendship Church, Abbeville:** Revival, Apr. 6 - 9; Sun., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; choir practice, 5 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., choir practice, 6:30 p.m.; worship, 7 p.m.; Harvey Reeves, speaker; Kenny Adams, music; Rick Burton, pastor.

► **First Church, Holly Springs:** Revival, Apr. 6 - 9. Phil Glisson, speaker.

CLASSIFIEDS

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY: Clarke County Baptist Association, AL accepting resumes for Associational Missionary/OM through April 30th. Resumes may be submitted to: 16183 Hwy 43, Grove Hill, AL 36451 or cbamoffice@gmail.com

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FOLEY, ALABAMA IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR THE FULL-TIME POSITION OF MINISTER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES. Please email resumes to scollins@fbcfoley.com.

FOR SALE: 84 ROYAL BLUE CHOIR ROBES IN ALL SIZES WITH STOLES. \$10 per robe or \$30 per robe if you buy 10. Contact Macdonia Baptist Church, 333-6780.

FOR SALE: TWO 32-CHANNEL GBS SOUND CRAFT CONSOLES IN EXCELLENT CONDITION. Used indoors only in Sound/TV ministries and have never travelled. \$3650 each or \$7000 for pair. Contact (662) 842-3338 or email dspires@calvarytupelo.com.

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH, AL. Rent direct from Christian Family Owners. Lowest Prices on the Beach. www.gulfshorescondos.com, 205-558-0368, 205-752-1231, 251-752-2366.

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., serving MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

RVERS!!! USE YOUR CAMPER FOR A HIGHER PURPOSE: Join a Mississippi Campers on Mission for service to others and Christian fellowship. www.ms-com.org or 601.941.0004.

NORRIS BOOKBINDING COMPANY, INC., OLD BIBLES REBOUND. Also, church bulletins and hymnals. For more information call 662-453-7424 or fax us at 662-455-6743.

WINDOW AND SCREEN SHOP - windows and storm windows built to fit your opening. Plus new window screens and rescreen old screens. Call Tom Cook 601-709-4879.

GATLINBURG RENTALS: Cabin \$95/night and Condo \$75/night. Contact: 832-922-0401 or E-mail: pdw4760@att.net for information and booking.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRIES NEEDS VAN OR MINI-BUS: 12 passenger. Call 601-270-5008

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE ESTIMATES. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

STAINED GLASS: new windows and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

SEBREN'S SIDING www.sebrenhomeimprovement.com. Christian owned Don & Rita Sebren. 601-992-2092. All home improvements, siding, energy efficient windows, metal & shingle roofs, screen & sunrooms, patio covers, decks, room additions, kitchen & bath upgrades.

Just for the Record



RA's from **CALVARY CHURCH, VICKSBURG**, are shown making their derby cars for their race competition in May.



Breland Bamburg, left, and Sunny Hawkins, right, of **BELEN CHURCH, NORTH DELTA ASSOCIATION**, are shown with a basket of eggs representing contributions to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Belen exceeded its goal of \$1000 by giving \$1,790. Reggie Howell, pastor.

In other Church News:

► **Crossroads Church, Petal,** is having a note burning celebration Apr. 6. Worship, 11 a.m., followed by lunch and note burning. Charles Herrin, speaker; MaryAnn Windham, music.

► **First Church, Yazoo City,** is hosting a women's conference, Redeeming Grace, Apr. 11 - 12. Kasey Van Norman, speaker; Michael O'Brien, worship leader. Lunch provided. Tickets, \$25, which can be purchased at www.fbcyazoo.org or by calling (662) 746-2471.

► **First Church, Vicksburg,** established a New Church Start Fund in February 2013. The initial goal of \$100,000 has been exceeded with the latest total of \$111,000. Annual income generated from the fund, which is managed by the Mississippi Baptist Foundation, will be used to support new church starts and ministries. The church is currently partnering with New Circle Church in Indianapolis. First Church, Vicksburg's Senior Pastor Matt Buckles and church leaders encourage other churches to consider similarly-focused investments in new church starts.

► **Mt. Carmel Church, Edinburg,** will host The Price Family in concert Apr. 6, 6 p.m.

► **Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson,** will present The Road to Calvary Drama, performed by the East Central Community College Drama Department, Apr. 6, 7 p.m. Fifty voice choir and enactments of the trial through the Resurrection. Puppets for children 10 and under.

► **Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie,** will host the Spoken Quartet in concert Apr. 6, 6 p.m. Love offering. For information, call (601) 260-7114.

► The children of **Beulah Church, Myrtle,** collected the first \$100 for mission work for Tim and Kate McCraw in East Timor, Australia. The McCraws are from Beulah Church. Marty Merritt, pastor.

MS POSITIONS

CRANE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH (CCBC) IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A YOUTH PASTOR. If you are interested in applying, please send your resume to: Crane Creek Baptist Church, 30040 Crane Creek Road, Attention: Youth Pastor Search Committee, Perkinston, MS, 39573

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VERONA, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please mail resumes in care of Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1093, Verona MS 38879.

CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, MCCOMB, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER. This person should be able to hold on to traditional elements of worship while moving to a more contemporary style. Please send resumes to cbcmccomb@yahoo.com.

NEW SIGHT BAPTIST CHURCH, IN BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME PASTOR/PREACHER. Please send resume to: New Sight Baptist Church, 629 Forest Tr, Brookhaven, Ms 39601 or email to max90@hotmail.com or fax resume to 601-833-0791.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN KOSCIUSKO, MS IS SEEKING A FULL TIME FAMILY/CHILDREN'S MINISTER. Please send resume to First Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 70, Kosciusko, MS 39090.

AUBURN BAPTIST CHURCH IN TUPELO, MS IS PRAYERFULLY SEARCHING FOR A YOUTH PASTOR TO LEAD OUR STUDENT MINISTRIES. Please send resume's to: 1138 City Rd. 931, Tupelo, MS 38804. Attn: Youth Pastor Search Committee. You can email jhenry@aumbaptistchurch.org with resume's or questions.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF EUFORA IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND ASSOCIATE PASTOR. Learn more about the ministries of FBC Eupora at www.fbcupora.com. Please send your resume to FBC Eupora, ATTN: Minister of Music Committee, P.O. Box 268, Eupora, MS 39744.

BETHSAIDA BAPTIST CHURCH IN FRENCH CAMP IS SEEKING A PIANO PLAYER/CHOIR DIRECTOR. THIS IS A PART TIME POSITION. Interested people should contact Tony Thomas at 662-547-6616 or Pastor Alex Lawson at 662-674-0366. Email inquiries can email alawson233@wildblue.net.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION/MISSIONS First Baptist Church Columbus seeks an energetic leader with a strong work ethic; good communications skills; passion for growing Sunday school/groups; and passion for leading missions outreach locally and internationally. Send resumes, not on file with Mississippi State Baptist Convention, promptly to: acb48@cableone.net.

BIBLIOCIPHER

N LENH WSJUJTMUJ KGWM VMK,

WSEW VJ LSEZZ HNJ NG VKMU LNGL:

TMU NT VJ AJZNJPJ GMW WSEW N EQ

SJ, VJ LSEZZ HNJ NG VMKU LNGL.

BMSG JNRSW: WFJG-WVTMKU

Clue: H = D

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 8:46

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004. © 2005

Staff Changes



PINEVIEW CHURCH, LAUREL, welcomes new music minister, Scarlet Sanders.

NOAH

cont. from p. 1

that he had produced "the least Biblical Biblical movie ever made."

Mississippi Baptists who provided feedback on their Noah experience apparently agree. "There isn't much Bible in it," said one. A second viewer reported that she and her husband left the theatre after the first 30 minutes of the film, offended by the bleak violence and variances from Scripture. "It's certainly not the Noah story from the Bible," wrote another Mississippi Baptist on his social media site.

Under an agreement with National Religious Broadcasters, Paramount added to the opening credits the message, "The film is inspired by the story of Noah. While artistic license has been taken, we believe that this film is true to the essence, values and integrity of a story that is a cornerstone of faith for millions of people worldwide. The biblical story of Noah can be found in the book of Genesis."

Paramount also released an eight-minute video encouraging Christians to see the film. Such leaders as Focus on the Family President Jim Daly; Mosaic Church (Los Angeles) pastor Erwin McManus, a graduate of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth; and The King's College President Greg Thornbury appear in the video.

"Noah is nothing short of astonishing," Thornbury, former dean of the School of Theology and Missions at Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tn., says in the video. "I am confident

that it will be remembered as a film that helped re-enchant a new generation with the biblical narrative. Honestly, it is path-breaking."

Thornbury, who has taught philosophy of film courses in a variety of settings, also critiqued the movie in a blog on The Gospel Coalition evangelical website. He acknowledged the movie has a "ton" of "extra-biblical material," and pointed out two major theological objections. The movie does not present God as an actual character, as does the biblical account, and the movie totally misses God's grace, even as it seeks to portray justice and mercy.

"If you go into it saying, 'That stuff is not in the Bible!' you are going to be a very grumpy camper when you leave the theater," Thornbury wrote.

The King's College is an accredited, 500-student Christian college located in the Wall Street area of Manhattan in New York City.

Phil Boatwright of Kansas City, Kn., whose movie reviews appear in Baptist Press and on prewionline.org, points out one such extra-biblical feature of Noah.

"When Noah tells an angry biblical figure that he's not alone, he doesn't just mean God is with him! Noah is also backed by... fallen angels known as the watchers (Nephilim, spoken of in Genesis 6:14), here portrayed as giant rock creatures who seek forgiveness from their Creator by aiding Noah," Boatwright said.

"The rock people (the watchers) must be discussed because for this reviewer, they were the one ingredient that made the \$130-million production seem a little like a

Sci-Fi Channel refugee," said Boatwright, whose commentaries on current American film making often appear in The Baptist Record.

He recommends the production, however. "Noah is an epic movie experience that engages not only the cerebral but the emotional. On the way to the car, people discuss it. That's when you know you've experienced true art. It's not just a time-filler before going to some other time-filler. It's a film that demands debate."

Answers in Genesis CEO Ken Ham is among those who are critical of — and do not recommend — the film, urging Christians to ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit before buying a ticket. He has called the movie "anti-biblical" and a "major corruption of the Bible's account of the global Flood."

Answers in Genesis has also launched a website, truthaboutnoah.com.

Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film & Television Commission in Los Angeles and director of its Movieguide of family movies and entertainment, advises caution for some violence and intense moments in the film.

"Noah is a spectacular epic with a hopeful, inspiring ending," he wrote in a review. "Although it stumbles along the way, it delivers a rough modern spectacle and dramatic conflict to please most moviegoers."

Among the movie's faults are an environmentalist spin and the fact that the movie never mentions the name God, said Baehr, who was the keynote speaker at the 2008 Mississippi Baptist Witnessing Through Media annual conference.

COMMITTEE

cont. from p. 1

letter from a church qualifying to send a messenger to the SBC annual meeting certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.

Proposed resolutions preferably should be submitted by e-mail or mailed to the Committee on Resolutions in care of the SBC Executive Committee, 901 Commerce St., Nashville, TN 37203. The drafts must be typewritten, titled, dated and include complete contact informa-

tion for the person and his or her church.

■ No person will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions per year.

■ If a properly submitted resolution is not forwarded by the Committee on Resolutions to the SBC annual meeting, a two-thirds vote of messengers would be required to bring the proposed resolution to the convention floor.

Editor's Note: All resolutions adopted by the SBC can be searched and read on the Web at www.sbc.net/resolutions/AMResSearch.asp.

"Hearing is Believing"

For a FREE consultation call
Jackson 1-800-844-1200 or Hattiesburg 1-800-844-5821
or go online at www.audioservices.org

Professional Sound
System Design and
Installation
Church / School / Commercial

**audio
SERVICES**
A DIVISION OF MISSISSIPPI MUSIC INCORPORATED

Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)
If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below, and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically

via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Exercise Financial Responsibility • Proverbs 16:6; 22:1-2; 23:4-5; 28:20; 30:7-9; 13:11; 15:27; 20:17; 21:6; 22:16; 28:6,8,24; 3:9-10; 11:28; 16:8

For many people the accumulation of wealth is the answer to all of life's problems. Many believe that the more money you have, the happier you will be. It is only after a lifetime of sacrificing many of their family relationships, their integrity, and their compassion for others that they come to the realization that money has not truly made them happy. The pursuit of material gain has consumed their entire life and become their god. The more wealth they obtain, the more they want, and it is never enough. Our passages from Proverbs this week seek to teach us that riches are deceptive, and will not bring us true satisfaction in life. They also seek to show us how to honor the Lord in how we obtain and use them.

Place Finances in Perspective (16:6; 22:1-2; 23:4-5; 28:20; 30:7-9)

In most of life's situations, your perspective will have a great deal to do with how you manage your way through them. When you have a proper perspective on money and finances, it is easier to handle them correctly. The pursuit of a Godly life places more value on gaining wisdom, understanding, and having a good reputation than on deceitful worldly wealth. (22:1) Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:33

that the pursuit of our lives should be to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you." (HCSB) The deception of wealth is that if you have it, you do not need anything else. If our perspective is that we are self-sufficient, because of our wealth or any other thing, we see no value in a relationship with God. A life without a relationship with God ends in misery and pain, separated from God forever. The person who seeks

a life guided by the wisdom of God puts the value where it belongs—on their relationship with God, which puts them in position to share their material blessings with others.

Earn Money with Integrity (13:11; 15:27; 20:17; 21:6; 22:16; 28:6, 8, 24)

In the world in which we live, we only have to turn on our television or switch

on our computer to see examples of people who have great wealth but no integrity to go with it. Many of them have gained their wealth through fraud, deception, lying, cheating, and taking advantage of the elderly. I get emails almost every day asking me to send someone I do not know some personal information under

the guise of my gaining wealth in return. Not long ago I was almost taken advantage of monetarily by someone trying to de-

ceive me over the internet. Our passages from Proverbs are imploring us to want integrity in our lives more than wealth. When we have integrity we also are putting more value on people than on gaining wealth. Proverbs 13:11 also teaches us that what wealth we do obtain should be gained through hard work. Only then will our integrity remain intact and our wealth bring us more blessings from God.

Honor the Lord with Your Resources (3:9-10; 11:28; 16:8)

When we have the proper perspective of wealth, our primary goal is to honor our Lord with those resources. Often we get caught up in the fact that others have more wealth than we do, and somehow forget the fact that we have more than many others. A life lived in the wisdom of God does not focus on what others have but on what He has given us and how we can use those resources to help others in their time of need. It is not about what we get; it is about what we give. For now we are specifically talking about material wealth, but the resources God has blessed us with are far more reaching than just money. One way we honor God is with our tithes and offerings, but that is not the only way. Our time and talents are other resources we can use to honor God. When we choose to live a life following the wise counsel of God given to us through scripture, we are promised that we will not lack for anything we need. The deception of wealth is that it is all we need, which therefore leads us out of position to be a witness to others of the love of God.

Dedmon is Associate Pastor for Education and Outreach, Brandon Church, Brandon.

Give Work a Rest • Exodus 31:12-17

The most used key on my laptop is the space bar. Precisely at the spot where the side of my right thumb lands, that space bar key is clean, smooth and very shiny. Yes, my "A,S,D,F,J,K,L,sem" keys are shiny, too, but that space bar gleams. The silence inserted between the words as I type day after day after day after day speaks volumes. Even as I hunt and peck and type this article, I rest my case.

Ask a musician. Any instrumentalist or vocalist will testify that the rests in music are as vital in value as the notes played or sung. Ask a fellow pilgrim who has slogged through a valley and lived through to stand strong on the mountain. Looking back, they will assure you that their time in the "waiting room" was so very valuable. Ask a doctor. Healing is fostered with tender, skillful care partnered with appropriate medicinal treatments but nothing is as vital as rest for full recuperation. "Home from the hospital" instructions would probably include a daily regimen of strength-building exercises. I would spell that "re-creation."

God created us. He desires to recreate us on a daily basis through our work AND through our rest/worship. He knew that we would tend to lose our God-leaning focus in the busy-ness of

our business. With the creation story, God demonstrated for us the value of rest/worship. One whole creation day (Genesis 2:1-3) was devoted to rest. God did NOT rest because He was exhausted from all His divine work. He rested to show us how and to teach us the synchronized rhythm of worship and work.

First, God completed His work. We have already established that work is good. Work was modeled for us by God and assigned to us by God. Work is not a curse. God accomplished His work then set it aside with intentionality by resting from all His work. God made a separation between work and rest. There is a big difference. God intended for worship to be the focus of ALL our days, but especially on rest/worship day.

"Rest" even made the Big Ten on the mountain with Moses. Carved in stone with the finger of God, the fourth commandment (Exodus 20:8-11) is the longest. Many people rarely rest long

enough to read it, much less obey it. "Remember (mark out, celebrate, observe) the Sabbath (ceasing) day to keep it holy (set apart as special)." Through Moses, God reminded the Israelites of Creation Week which included six days of work and a day of rest/worship.

In Exodus 31, Moses is completing forty days on Mount Sinai with God. He has received the ten commandments,

the blueprints for the tabernacle and the instructions for priestly ordination. On that first mountain hike, the

final words of God to Moses were about the Sabbath. "Hey, Mo, just before you go, don't forget to tell the people to w-o-o-h." Just as circumcision was the sign of covenant between God and the physical body of man, Sabbath was the sign of the covenant between God and the spiritual soul of man.

God intended for man to observe the Sabbath. Jesus certainly did. Sabbath Day found Him in the synagogue as

He had been taught. He healed on the Sabbath. He taught on the Sabbath. He proved He was Lord of the Sabbath and every other day of the week.

In Exodus 31:13, God reminded Moses that Sabbath rest was not optional. On that day, the people were to remember that their sanctification (separation leading to holy living) is a result of their recognition that He is The Lord, their God.

Exodus 31:17 says that the Lord made heaven and earth in six days but on the seventh day He ceased from labor and was "refreshed." In this verse, the Hebrew word for refreshed is "naphash" which is related directly to "nephesh" which means living soul. You will find "nephesh" in Genesis 2:7 where God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. Could it be that God leads us to rest and worship on the Sabbath day to re-create us? To re-fresh us? To re-soul us? Most of us ignore this command of God. We re-tread and keep rolling on our merry way. Do we dare to wonder why we wallow in de-feet when we fail to hit de-knees?

Brown is staff evangelist at First Church, Richland

Bible Studies for Life

with Becky Brown



ROWLAND

cont. from p.2

people and proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ and His Gospel as we worship the true and living God.

Now, I am going to shut down my computer and sit on my couch and watch March Madness as I weep over my destroyed brackets and listen to my six-year-old smack talk me because he is beating me — and I will not

feel guilty about it because entertainment is not my God. It is a blessing from a benevolent God.

Jesus is my God and Sunday I will preach His Gospel and, by His grace, I'll lead the local church where I pas-

tor to worship Him in spirit and truth!

Rowland is pastor of Bovina Church, Bovina, and an adjunct professor at New Orleans Seminary. He is currently serving on the board of

the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. This commentary originally appeared March 27 on the blog of HCSB.org. Used by permission. Edited for style and clarity.

Just for the Record



FIRST CHURCH, RUNNELSTOWN, had a dessert bake off and chili cook off Mar. 23. Shown are Gerry Burns, 3rd place, chili; Sandra Little, 2nd place chili; Cathy Green (1st place chili & 2nd place dessert); Breanna Penton (3rd place dessert); and Jennie Sue Hollimon (1st place dessert.)



PHEBA CHURCH, PHEBA, recognized several deacons Mar. 9 for their years of service. Shown are Danny White (30 years); Helen Forrester (David Forrester posthumously, 39 years), Sarah Alford (Ruble Alford posthumously 41 years) and Bob Bates (45 years).



FIRST CHURCH, OLOH, and the FBCO Brotherhood surprised Houston Bennett with a wheelchair accessible van Mar. 2.



POPLAR SPRINGS CHURCH, GOLDEN, ordained Loyd Cromeans, Jr., as deacon Mar. 9. Shown are Cromeans, his wife Charlotte, and pastor Jimmy Dale Sartin.

WANT A CAREER AS A CHAPLAIN?

MS Army National Guard
Chaplain Positions

MISSISSIPPI
NATIONAL GUARD

Private, Chaplain

1st. Military Command at 601-447-1858

1st. Military Command at 601-447-1858

Refresh Your Marriage

Dr. Ed & Kathy Litton

Marriage & Family
enrichment weekend

Refocus On the Family

Dr. Scott Thomas

APRIL 25-27, 2014

FANNIN